

Message Text

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ORIGIN SNM-05

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DRAFTED BY S/NM:RSLUTZ,JR:BRC
APPROVED BY S/NM:JHLINNE MANN
EA/TIMBS:HMEINHEIT
EUR/WE:EJBEIGEL
DPS/WH:LIDOGOLOFF(DRAFT)
IO/HDC:EEDWARDS
EUR/NE - MR. DONCHI
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OSLO
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: PROPOSED NORWEGIAN POPPY STRAW FACTORY IN SINGAPORE

1. FURTHER TO DOGOLOFF TEAM DISCUSSIONS IN OSLO IN FEBRUARY 1978, WE REMAIN CONCERNED AT THE POTENTIALLY SERIOUS ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES FOR NARCOTICS CONTROL OF WEIDER PHARMACEUTICAL DECISION TO ESTABLISH IN SINGAPORE A PLANT FOR EXTRACTING OPIATES FROM INCISED OPIUM POPPY CAPSULES PRO-
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DUCED IN INDIA.

2. AS ALREADY NOTED IN SLUTZ TO DODD LETTER, MAR 9, SUCH ACTION COULD STIMULATE INCREASED INDIAN POPPY PRODUCTION AND NOT ONLY STRAIN INDIA'S CONTROL SYSTEM, BUT ALSO EXAGGERATE CURRENT WORLDWIDE OVER-SUPPLY OF NARCOTIC RAW MATERIALS REQUIRED FOR MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC USES. THE

RECENT SESSION OF THE UN COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS DEVOTED SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE NEED TO MAINTAIN EQUILIBRIUM BETWEEN SUPPLY AND DEMAND AND ASKED ALL GOVERNMENTS TO COOPERATE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD TO THIS END.

3. MOREOVER, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OPIATES EXTRACTION PLANT IN SINGAPORE IS APT TO WHET THE APPETITES OF OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR SIMILAR FACILITIES. DEVELOPING

COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE PREVIOUSLY EVIDENCED INTEREST IN LEGALIZING PRODUCTION OF NARCOTIC RAW MATERIALS AND MANUFACTURING/EXPORTING OPIATES INCLUDE AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN, THAILAND AND LAOS, ALL OF WHICH HAVE DEMONSTRATED THEIR INABILITY TO CONTROL OPIUM POPPY PRODUCTION AND ARE MAJOR SOURCES OF ILLICIT NARCOTICS. PROLIFERATION OF OPIATE EXTRACTION FACILITIES TO SUCH COUNTRIES WOULD INEVITABLY RESULT IN INCREASED OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION AND EVEN GREATER LEAKAGES OF RAW MATERIALS AND OPIATES INTO THE ILLICIT TRAFFIC. THROUGH UN AND US BILATERAL EFFORTS THESE COUNTRIES HAVE THUS FAR BEEN DISSUADED FROM ATTEMPTING TO ENTER LICIT PRODUCTION/MANUFACTURING FIELD.

4. IN VIEW OF THE GROWING ILLICIT NARCOTICS THREAT TO WESTERN EUROPE AS WELL AS NORTH AMERICA, EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO EXPRESS OUR CONCERN ABOUT WEIDER PHARMACEUTICAL
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DECISION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF NORWAY AT AN APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL WITH A VIEW TO ENCOURAGING GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION TO BRING ABOUT A REVERSAL OF THAT DECISION IF POSSIBLE INSOFAR AS IT RELATES TO THE MANUFACTURE OF OPIATES SUCH AS CODEINE. CHRISTOPHER

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